

January 9th, 2008

NORTH EAST PA REGION

# PANZEE Press

Spotlight  
on Musician

**TOM  
GOSS**

**“Non-Stereo-  
Typical” LGBT  
Musicians**

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# Disco Show at the Dawg Haus

Jan. 11, 2008

SPECIAL GUESTS

**Tai**

**Ashley Lynn**

**Angelina Hairytta**

Your Show  
Directors

Dame  
Glenda

168 S. Main Street Side Entrance  
Manheim, PA 17545  
(717) 655-0069

Whitley Nycole DeAire'



## FEATURED ARTICLES

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**Non-Stereo-typical Gay Musicians**  
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**CC's for Christmas**

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by Ikarus
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by Christopher J. Kupchik

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### Staff

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CC's Christmas Show  
Saturday, December 22nd, 2007

1. Chynna Buffet
2. Carmen Ciara
3. Angelica Hairyyetta
4. Lexxi Lynn
5. Dame Glenda
6. Ashley Lynn
7. Tracey
8. Michelle Sterling
9. Scarlet Feva
10. Nana (Happy 79th Birthday!)
11. Tequilla Daniels
12. Stephanie



# "Supposedly" Gossip from the Lehigh Valley

**W**ell here we are again. I can report that the withheld computer has finally been returned {this whole situation has had more drama than any other scandal this year}. Girls please can we just all get along?



Yes it's true. This is my last stint as a gossip columnist. I will be entering the Miss PA America Pageant system this year and feel that being such a scandalous columnist is no longer appropriate for my image. I wanted my column to be witty, sharp and full of scandal! I think I was successful. I had lots of good responses and even some hate mail. I enjoyed every second of it. However, I need to put out a more positive image for myself {in the drag world}. I take the pageant seriously. I think I took a lot of slack for using my humor in ways that offend some people. For example people think I have a problem with my fellow sisters in the drag world. This can not be further from the truth! I truly respect my sisters and only pick at those I like and think can handle a little razzing.

So let me just say that I loved working for the Press and you will be hearing from me in the near future. It gives me great pleasure to tell you that my good friend Kitty will be taking over the column.

.....Luv you all, Vicki Dominatrix

## READING'S "THEORETICALLY" by Daniel Kincade



Well kiddies, here we are, 2008. It's a new year, and this is a new column. I'd like to thank everyone at the Red Star for their input on my first attempt in the world of journalism. Something dishier? Hmm... Well, here it goes.

Vicki Dominatrix keeps addressing this whole buying crowns and titles subject. This must be something that happens in Harrisburg and Allentown. I mean, NOBODY in READING has ever bought their own crown or title. Maybe I should go into the crown selling business... sounds like there is a market out there for it... theoretically.

How do you like the picture? It's cute isn't it? Well, it's from Central Pa Gay Pride... 3 years ago. Theoretically, had I used a current one, this article would have turned into a 2 page spread. It's a shame that after buying the new house, unlike some people, I couldn't afford to go get liposuction. Guess I will have to lose the weight the old-fashioned way-diet pills... theoretically.

Speaking of lipo, Alexxus Kane's Christmas Extravaganza went down on December 22 at the Red Star. Those in attendance tipped the Grand Diva with cookies, brownies and candy canes (pardon the pun). I wonder if they were

trying to tell her something? Well, I am sure that the candy canes had no hidden meaning... theoretically.

New Year's Eve marked the end of an era in Reading Drag. After a career that has spanned several decades, Carlita has officially entered semi retirement. The Reading Rebelles, after 25 years, have disbanded. Now, notice I said "semi retirement." Somehow I don't think we've seen the last of Carlita...theoretically.

It saddens me to report on the untimely passing of Miss Tiffany North. For those of you who knew Tiffany, The Red Star will be hosting a memorial benefit show in Tiffany's honor on January 26. Please come out to pay your respects, and help raise money for Project Hope of Montgomery County, Pa. Project Hope helps care for the needs of patients with HIV and AIDS.

February 23 will mark my official return to the stage at The Red Star, and I am looking forward to a fun night with Glenda, Vicki Dominatrix, Whitley and many more... theoretically.

And finally, Miss Drag All-Star Pennsylvania has a new promoter. Whitley Nycole DeAire' has stepped down due to her very busy schedule, and Miss Kelli Matthews has taken the helm as the new PA Promoter. What is Miss Drag All-Star you ask? Well, let's just say that it should be a lot more fun than MGA...theoretically!

Until next time... have fun, be safe, and don't do anything I would do!



# Non-Traditional Musicians Of the Non-traditional LGBT Community.

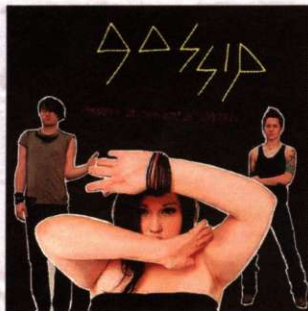
By William O'Donnel

Many people have developed an idea of what "gay music" or "lesbian music" is, but there are a good many artists out there who do not slot into the pre-conceived traditional genres. It's common to identify gay men with club/dance music, such as the gay identical twin pop duo Nemesis. Many lesbians follow traditional folk music, such as the longtime indie music fixture Ani DiFranco. However, there are more and more musical acts emerging that do not fit squarely into these stereotypical packages. This article will take a closer look at three of these non-traditional, sexually complex bands. Granted, being gay is non-traditional in and of itself, but what does being non-traditional in an already non-traditional culture entail?

One might put this question to Rob Halford, the singer for long-standing, British, heavy metal band Judas Priest. The genre of heavy metal has been particularly viewed as homophobic, often with good reason. Halford's sexuality, often referred to as "the worst-kept secret in rock," became matter of public record in 1998 when Halford came out. Before then, those in the know were provided less-than-subtle cues: Halford's stage wardrobe of leather spikes and chains, right out of an S & M club, and Judas Priest's sound titles such as "Jawbreaker" and "Ram it Down" (the title track of Priest's eleventh studio album). While Rob Halford's subversive career deserves mention, and a great deal of respect, this article focuses on three other bands, namely: The Gossip, Placebo and Muse.

## **The Gossip**

The three-piece indie rock band, The Gossip, formed in 1999 in Searcy, Arkansas. The band consists of vocalist Beth Ditto, guitarist/bassist Brace Paine, and drummer Kathy Mendocoy. Ditto has always been open in regards to her weight and her sexuality. She has developed a reputation for opinionated commentary about other musicians or their fans. After playing three dates as opening act for the Scissor Sisters, Ditto complained to UK music magazine NME about playing for an audience that "didn't know their Ramones."



After releases on independent record labels K and Kill Rock Stars, The Gossip has signed to Sony Music Label Group subsidiary,

Music With A Twist. According to a press release, Music With a Twist is "the first major music label dedicated to identifying and developing LGBT artists." *Revolutions*, the first compilation album from Music With a Twist, includes The Gossip's breakout hit "Standing in The Way of Control." This song was written in response to the American government's decision to deny gay people the right to marry. Other tracks on the compilation include "Jesse" by out gay Israeli artist Ivri Lider, "Love You Better" by lesbian hip-hoppers Goddes & She, and "Forgiveness," a collaboration between singer-songwriter Jonathan Mendelsohn and electronic artist Wamdue Project.

During the summer of 2007, The Gossip was a part of the multi-artist True Colors Tour 2007 with MC comedienne Margaret Cho. The tour featured Cyndi Lauper, Debbie Harry, Erasure, and the Dresden Dolls. Along with the Indigo Girls, Rufus Wainwright, The Cliks, and Caswell, The Gossip wasn't a full time participant of the tour, but rather appeared for specified shows.

The Gossip owes an inspirational debt to the "riot grrl" scene, which featured female-centric bands such as Bikini Kill and Bratmobile at its center. Riot grrl started in 1991, out of Olympia, Washington, where art gallery owner Kathleen Hanna and editor Tobi Vail teamed up to publish Bikini Kill, a fan created publication known as a fanzine. Strong women predecessors in rock, especially punk or post-punk rock, inspired the fanzine. Punk inspirations included Patti Smith and X-Ray Spex vocalist Poly Styrene (born Marian Joan Elliott). Post-punk figures included Siouxsie Sioux (born Susan Dailion). Friends of the Bikini Kill publication, Kathi Wilcox and Billy "Boredom" Karren, joined Hanna and Vail to form Bikini Kill into a band. Meanwhile, frequent collaborators of the fanzine, Allison Wolfe and Molly Neuman, bragged about their non-existent band Bratmobile. The two were asked to play a



Valentine's Day show with Some Velvet Sidewalk and Bikini Kill. At first afraid, they insisted Bratmobile was not a real band. Then, they changed their mind and played the show as a dare. After guitarist Erin Smith joined Wolfe and Neuman, the Bratmobile lineup was set.

While not necessarily queer, the riot grrl bands cleared the path for "queercore" bands such as Tribe 8 and Pansy Division. Granted, queer punk rock musicians (such as Pete Shelley from The Buzzcocks and Darby Crash from The Germs) have never been quiet about anything, much less their sexualities.

### Placebo

Following in the grand tradition of outspoken GLBT musicians comes UK group Placebo. Their queerness comes in a more ambiguous form.

Guitarist/vocalist Brian Molko uses

androgynous

vocals and image along with non-gender-specific lyrics (begging the object of his affection to "change your taste in men"). As if Molko's look and sound wasn't enough to generate notoriety, his openness in regards to his bisexuality, as well as bassist Stefan Olsdal's candor in discussing his gayness, help to keep them noticed in the highly conservative British music press. Placebo has a video released only in France for the band's song "Protégé Moi," sung by Molko in British-accented, fluent French. This video received more notoriety than the song itself because of its x-rated scenes, which feature non-simulated hetero and lesbian sex acts.

Their music has not shied away from potential controversy either. The band encountered resistance from the music industry directed toward their song "Special K," which compares a Ketamine high to being in love. Combined with Placebo's frankness about their individual member's sexualities, a song built on blatant drug culture references served to further stoke fires of discontent under uptight British music critics.

The band proved to have a very powerful admirer in rock icon David Bowie, who duetted with the band on "Without You I'm Nothing," as well as

intense version of T-Rex's rock classic "20th Century Boy" performed live for the BRIT Awards in 1997.

The group suffered a minor setback on October 1, 2007, when drummer Steve Hewitt left the band. In a statement from the band's website, Molko explains:

"Being in a band is very much like being in a marriage, and in couples - in this case a triple people can grow apart over the years. To say that you don't love your partner anymore is inaccurate, considering all that you've been through and achieved together. There simply comes a point when you realize that you want different things from your relationship and that you can no longer live under the same roof, so to speak."

The site further states that Molko and Olsdal will begin work on Placebo's 6th studio album next spring, and that there is no rush to find a replacement for Hewitt.

### Muse

Also from the UK, and not nearly as overt as the previous bands mentioned here, is Muse, whose Queen-meets-Radiohead bombast has been steadily gathering them a fan base here in America. The band is comprised of vocalist/multi-instrumentalist Matthew Bellamy, bassist Christopher Wolstenholme, and drummer Dominic Howard. They have achieved a degree of success with their *Black Holes And Revelations* album, on the strength of its two singles, "Starlight" and "Supermassive Black Hole." LGBT-oriented cable network Logo seems to think they fit in rather well. The surrealistic and creepy video for "Supermassive Black Hole," directed by Floria Sigismondi (who has directed videos for Marilyn Manson as well as Christina Aguilera!), is in frequent rotation on music-video show *NewNowNext*. The members of the band have not identified their sexualities one way or another. Maybe front man Bellamy is too busy singing about





conspiracy theories or astronomical phenomena to get overly personal, lyrics-wise. Where Muse also fits into this discussion is Bellamy's similarity (vocally and in stage-presence) to late, lamented Queen vocalist/multi-instrumentalist Freddie Mercury. Also, it's not often you'll find a musical artist who will sue Celine Dion, and even less often you'll find an artist winning that lawsuit.

### Other Artists

Besides the three bands highlighted above, there are many queer artists making non-traditional artistic choices, a further way of cracking stereotypes from within. Some artists actively demonstrate that not all gay male artists do club remixes, and not all lesbian artists are folksingers.

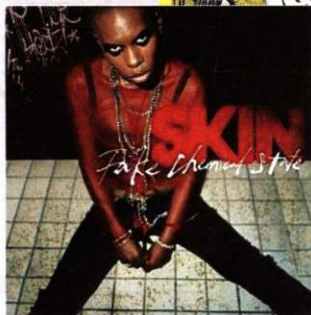
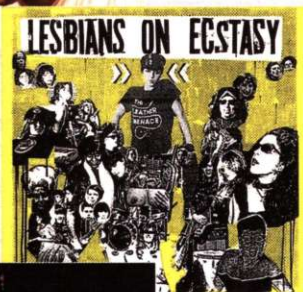
Gay male musicians are making inroads into the previously lesbian-dominated territory of folk rock. Artists such as Tom Goss, Eric Himan, Josh Zuckerman, and Freddy Freeman have been taking inspiration from the iconoclastic careers of lesbian folk artists such as Toshi Reagon and non-queer, but no less iconoclastic, artists such as Joni Mitchell.

As far as lesbian artists working within the techno/dance milieu, the first act that readily leaps to mind is Russia's t.A.T.u., comprised of teenaged duet Lena Katina and Yulia Volkova. The group's music, which veers back and forth between dance, rock, and synthpop, did not garner nearly as much attention from the worldwide music press as the duo's lesbian image did. The image, however, proved to be false, as Volkova had a child by her boyfriend Pavel (Pasha) Sidorov. On one hand, t.A.T.u. can be appreciated for the positive view of girl/girl love, but on the other hand, the group can also be decried for being a hetero male fantasy. t.A.T.u. co-creator Ivan Shapovalov admitted to his own nebulous purpose for creating the group; he was catering to his own tastes for underage girls.

For real lesbians doing electronic music, there's Lesbians On Ecstasy, from Montreal, Quebec. The foursome, comprised of Fruity Frankie, Veronique Mystique, Jackie "The Jackhammer," and Bernie Bankrupt, released their self-titled first album on October 26, 2004. Their song "Bitchsy" was featured on the TV show *Queer As Folk* in 2005. That same year, *The Advocate* magazine chose *Lesbians On Ecstasy* as Album Of The Year. Their next full-length release, the remix

collection *Giggles In The Dark*, featuring remixes by Le Tigre, Tracy and the Plastics, and others, was released later in 2005. Their third full-length release, *We Know You Know*, was released April 10, 2007.

For every gay-oriented techno-pop duo such as Erasure or Pet Shop Boys, you'll find the sleazy satanic disco of *My Life With The Thrill Kill Kult*, whose singer Frank Nardiello, aka Groovie Mann, is openly gay. For every lesbian folk-rock act like the Indigo Girls or Melissa Etheridge, there's the aggressively loud but powerfully melodic British group Skunk Anansie, fronted by a black lesbian who calls herself Skin (nee Deborah Ann Dyer). Though Skunk Anansie sadly self-destructed after three full-length albums, Skin carries on as a solo artist. The GLBT community in general will not let itself be pigeonholed, so it is no great surprise that its musical creative types refuse to adhere to any expected genre either.





# The Body Impolitic

By Cecil J. Brooks



## SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

My father was the pastor of a church in a small New England village in the late 1950s and early 60s. Marrying and burying were our bread and butter. My sister and I watched those spooky wooden coffins and those women in absurd white dresses coming out of the church doors on Saturdays, and it was obvious to us that something important had happened in there, though just what was not clear. People had to be buried in the ground before they could go to heaven, we were told, and marriage was something that a man and a woman had to do before they could live together and share a last name and have children.

Then I discovered that 2 of our parishioners were a man and a woman who lived in the same house together, but weren't married—they had different last names and people called her Miss instead of Mrs. I demanded an explanation. My mother told me that the man had been married to the woman's sister and the three of them had lived together for a long, long time, and then the wife died and he and her unmarried sister kept living together, but that was all right because they were old. I asked if they could have babies. Mom said that they were too old and that it is against the law to have babies if you aren't married. My father laughed and said they were married in common law anyway since they had lived together so long. My mother shot him one of those looks and changed the subject.

My understanding of marriage is somewhat more nuanced now. I believe marriage has historically had 2 purposes, often in conflict, held in a dynamic tension: to facilitate a man's control over a woman so that he can maintain his continual and exclusive access to her for sexual and other personal services; and to protect women and their children from abuse and abandonment. The success of marriage in meeting these goals has clearly been spotty.

Throughout most of history in most societies, most girls lived in their father's house until marriage and then with their husband. Catastrophes could upset this cozy plan, but the options of an unmarried woman outside her father's house were limited and largely bad—servitude, even slavery, or prostitution or, at least in Christian and Buddhist lands, religious sequestration. The lot of a widow without a dutiful son was no better.

Since the industrial revolution women can find paying work and make their own way in the world. In our society today, it is largely expected in middle-class homes that girls be educated to be capable of living independently. If they do get married, they will likely have to earn at least part of the household income. However, many women can and do raise children and earn a living without the help of a man—it is usually damned hard, but often preferable to having the father around.

Still, in the United States at least, around three quarters of children are born in wedlock and more than half of them live with both biological parents until they leave home. Marriage remains popular. Indeed, lots of men and women get married with no intention of having children at all!

While it is inarguably easier for a woman to be able to devote the first few years of her children's lives to nurturing them without having to work for money too, and most any man wants assurance that he not raise another man's children unknowingly, the necessity of marriage is gone. The historical purpose of marriage has evaporated with the notion that women are the chattel property of men to whom they owe unpaid labor. All we are left with is the spiritual idea of a marriage as a public declaration of commitment and love. Oh, and the insurance and retirement plans that go with it.

Why can't couples of the same sex get married? Ask why couples of the opposite sex can get married. Either the institution of marriage as a legal formality is obsolete and should be abolished, or . . . but I'm preaching to the choir, here.





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## Weekly LGBT Events: North East PA

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	Friday	Saturday	SUNDAY
<a href="#">Diamonz 8:00p</a> \$0.99 Clam Dozen	<a href="#">RedStar 10:00p</a> Trivia	<a href="#">Stonwll 9:00p</a> Karaoke	<a href="#">Stonwll</a> 18 and over	<a href="#">Twist</a> All Age Dance	<a href="#">Diamonz</a> Karoke	<a href="#">Stonwll 10:30p</a> Karaoke
<a href="#">12Penny</a> Free Pool	<a href="#">Diamonz</a> Tocao's \$1.25	<a href="#">RedStar 10:00p</a> Trivia	<a href="#">Diamonz 9:00p</a> Pool League			<a href="#">MCCLV</a> 10:30a & 6:00p Sunday Services
		<a href="#">Diamonz</a> \$0.99 Clam, Pasta	<a href="#">Club Z 9:00p</a> Guitar Hero			<a href="#">MCCLV 9:00a</a> Men's Breakfast Perkins on Lehigh St., Allentwn
		<a href="#">Michaels 7:00p</a> Karaoke				
		<a href="#">Club Z 10:00p</a> Karaoke				
		<a href="#">Spectrm 5:30p</a> LGBT Youth Meeting Ages14-18				
		<a href="#">HAVEN 7:00p</a> GLBTAQI Youth Meeting Ages14-18	<b>SCRANTON</b>  <b>Silhouette Lounge</b> 523 Linden St. Scranton, PA 18503 (570) 344-4259 Mon-Sat 3:00p - 2:00a Opening Date To Be Announced <a href="#">SilhouetteLounge.net</a>		<b>EDWARDSVILLE</b>  <b>Michael's Lounge</b> 429 Main St. Edwardsville, PA 18704 (570) 287-9300 Tue-Sun 7:00p-2:00a <a href="#">MichaelsLounge.com</a>	
		<a href="#">MCCLV 7:00p</a> Tejas Women's				
<b>ALLENTWON</b>	<b>BETHLEHEM</b>	<b>WILKES-BARRE</b>	<b>MOOSIC</b>	<b>WILLIAMSPORT</b>	<b>SUNBURY</b>	
<b>Stonewall &amp; Moose Lounge (Stonwll)</b> 28 North 10th St. Allentown, PA 18101 (610) 432-0215 Tue-Sun: 7p - 2a <a href="#">TheStonewall.com</a>	<b>Diamonz</b> 1913 West Broad St. Bethlehem, PA 18017 (610) 865 1028 <a href="#">diamonz.net</a>	<b>Twist</b> Fox Ridge Plaza 1170 Highway 315 Wilkes-Barre, PA (570) 825-7300 Mon-Sat 8p-2a Sun 7p-10p <a href="#">twistbarpa.com</a>	<b>12 Penny Saloon</b> 3501 Birney Ave Moosic, PA (570) 941-0444 Daily 6:00p - 2:00a <a href="#">12PennySaloon.com</a>	<b>Club Z</b> 321 Pine St. Williamsport, PA Tue-Sat 6:00p -2:30a (570) 322-6900 <a href="#">clubzbar.com</a>	<b>CCs</b> 555 Klinger Rd. Sunbury PA (570) 286-6022 Thu, Fri, Sat: 8:00p - 2:00a Sun: 3:00p - ? <a href="#">MySpace.com/OfficialCCsBar</a>	



## LGBT Calendar: North East PA

Thu. Jan 10, '08	Fri. Jan 11, '08	Sat. Jan 12, '08	Sun. Jan 13, '08
<u>Twist 10:00p</u> All Age Event Miss Gay Wilkes-Barre	<u>CCs</u> Karaoke	<b>Mystery Dinner Theatre</b> Preents I Love Lucy... to Death <u>@ Diamonz 6:00p</u>	<u>PrideNE 6:30p</u> Movie & Dinner Moves RC 14 Downtown Wilkes-Barre

<b>CHORUS, ART &amp; THEATER</b> <b>Lehigh Vally Gay Men's Chorus (LVGMC)</b> (610) 366-3320 <a href="http://LVGMC.org">LVGMC.org</a>
<b>SOCIAL</b> <b>Takeover Lehigh Valley (TakeLV)</b> <a href="http://Takeoverlv.com">Takeoverlv.com</a>
<b>Renaissance Transgender (RenTrans)</b>
<b>Reading Railmen (Railmen) (Railmen)</b>
<b>NEPA Leathermen (Lethmn)</b> <a href="http://nepa-leathermen.com">nepa-leathermen.com</a>
<b>SPIRITUAL</b> <b>Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley (MCCLV)</b> Merchants Square 1901 S. 12th St. Allentwon, PA 18103 <a href="http://mcclv.org">mcclv.org</a>

<b>PRIDE FESTIVAL</b> <b>Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley (PGLV)</b> 1101 W. Hamilton St. Allentown <a href="http://PrideGLV.org">PrideGLV.org</a> <a href="mailto:info@PrideGLV.org">info@PrideGLV.org</a>
<b>Pride of NortheEast PA (PrideNE)</b> 156 Franklin St. 3rd Flr Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701 <a href="http://PrideOfNEPA.org">PrideOfNEPA.org</a>
<b>Reading Pride Celebration (RPC)</b> <a href="http://ReadingPrideCelebration.com">ReadingPrideCelebration.com</a>

<u>Club Z 10:00p</u> Smack Down Drag Queen Showdown
<u>CCs</u> Country Night
<u>PrideNE 7:05</u> Hockey Night OUT
<u>Stonwll 7:00p</u> -- 2nd Sat Pinochle
<u>RenTrans 8:00p</u> -- 2nd Sat Stonewall Meeting

## LGBT Calendar Continued: North East PA

Mon. Jan 14, '08	Tue. Jan 15, '08	Wed. Jan 16, '08	Thu. Jan 17, '08	Fri. Jan 18, '08	Sat. Jan 19, '08	Sun. Jan 20, '08
<a href="#">MCCLV 7:00p</a> Board Meeting	<a href="#">PrideNE</a> Tony D's Pizza	<a href="#">FACT 7:00p</a> -- 2nd Wed Fundraising Meeting	<a href="#">PrideNE 6:30p</a> Dinner OUT	<a href="#">TakeLV</a> Edge Restaurant 74 W. Broad St. Bethlehem, PA	<a href="#">Twist 10:00p</a> Miss Twist 2008	<a href="#">PaDivNet 2:00p</a> Martin Luther King
<a href="#">MCCLV</a> Food Sunday	295 S. Main St. Wilkes-Barre			<a href="#">PaDivNet 6:00p</a> 200 Same Sex Couple Photos Keneseth Israel 2227 W. Chew St. Allentown Service 6:00p Potluck Dinner 7p rsvp (610) 435-9074	<a href="#">Stonewall 7:00p</a> -- 2nd Sat Pinochle <a href="#">RenTrans 8:00p</a> -- 2nd Sat Stonewall Meeting	Interfaith Service Diversity Fair with 200 Same Sex Couple Photos

### YOUTH GROUP

#### Haven Youth Group

#### (Haven)

Universalist Church

424 Center Street, Bethlehem

[Havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com](mailto:Havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com)

[uuclvpa.org/haven](http://uuclvpa.org/haven)

#### Planned Parenthood

#### of North East PA: SPECTRUM

#### (Spectrm)

LGBT Youth Support Program

48 South 4th Street (2nd Floor)

Reading, PA

[PPNEP.org](http://PPNEP.org)

### LGBT COMMUNITY

#### PA Diversity Network

P.O. Box 22902

Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-2902

(610) 435-7123 (610-HELP-123)

[PADiversity.org](http://PADiversity.org)

#### Rainbow Alliance

512 Northampton St. #218

Kingston, PA 18704

(570) 606-4410

[GayNEPA.com](http://GayNEPA.com)



# TOM GOSS

Acoustic – Pop  
Song Writer

Hope, redemption and reconciliation are primary themes you'll find in the music written by Tom Goss. He accompanies his lyrics with an acoustic guitar to the beat of pop, rock and folk. While he's currently in a state of flux regarding his religion, he is very spiritual in nature. It's this spirit that provides most of the inspiration of his music. Tom hopes that his message and style can assist listeners in tying together all their life aspects and make peace with themselves and life around them.

Tom Goss has become popular in Central Pennsylvania after being one of the musical entertainers of the 2007 Pride Festival. Tom visited us from Washington D.C. during the 2007 Millennium Music Conference ([MusicConference.net/mmcl12](http://MusicConference.net/mmcl12)), held in the Radisson Conference Center in Camp Hill. During this February event, as he attempted to make a buzz for himself in Harrisburg, he came across our good friend Glenda who invited him to perform for her birthday party at the Pink Lizard. From there, he met Biscuit, the entertainment chairperson for the Pride Festival.

Tom Goss and his partner Mike have come to love Central Pennsylvania enough such that they're currently house hunting in the area. Besides the initial jaunts of the music conference, Pride, and Glenda's birthday, the couple visited our area to experience the town of Centralia, with the 45-year-old coal fire burning beneath the ground. Tom and Mike are still squabbling over the decision of whether to live in the area of Reading or Harrisburg. Tom likes the metropolitan feel and urban options of the east coast, integrated with the friendly, socially-respectable attitudes of mid-west communities. The diverse landscape and well-rounded seasons add to the Central Pennsylvania attraction.

After growing up in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Tom earned his education degree from Central Missouri State University in 2003. Following college, his spiritual nature lead him into training to be a Catholic priest in a Seminary of D.C.

Unfortunately, the Seminary brought him conflict and doubts. Tom fell victim to the sexually predatory nature of a couple of his housemates. This persecution was so great, it prevented him from being able to follow his studies. It resulted in anger toward God

for allowing this to happen. Tom still struggles with a sense of failure for not completing his training. He discovered that 90% of his community house was gay, or "unsure". Furthermore, he estimates that 50% of the men in other seminary community houses were gay or "unsure". This measurement is not simply by gaydar, but rather by open discussion and homosexual activity. On top of his anger toward God, he also couldn't get past the hypocritical nature of the Catholic Church. He sees the church as being run by gay men, but the church still abolishes homosexuality. He went into the seminary in 2003 with the desire to be a Catholic priest, but left in 2005 wondering if God existed.

Not completely lost to faith, Tom still follows his religious beliefs, and has many interesting ideas of the church. If there is a god, Tom's sure that he is all knowing and all loving. The study of spiritual philosophy (St. Thomas Aquinas, for example) often leads through a trail of cause and effect, but there always remains an unknown initial cause where the soul searcher must take a leap of faith in the existence of God. Tom is just a bit too stubborn for that last leap. Another interesting viewpoint of Tom's is that most historical spiritual leaders are gay, and there's a connection between being gay and having the open mind for spiritual awareness. The basic humanitarian principles of the Catholic Church are still strong influences in Tom's life and music. As his day-job, Tom works out of an Episcopalian church in D.C., where he runs a breakfast program for the homeless.

While his bad seminary experiences have caused him to lose the presence of God in his every day life, he does still feel God's presence when he writes music. Writing a song feels like an open canvas that has many truths without criticism. This canvas has so many truths that there's no place for a lie; no lies in his songs, to Tom himself, nor to God. While attempting to rectify his own painful experiences and personal failures, Tom came to realize that these are parts of his life. In order to reconcile one's life, the bad along with the good need to be considered, accepted and forgiven. It's important to understand and embrace all aspects of your life in order to find peace.

There are many places that Tom finds conducive for song writing, but mostly it comes from a spot internal to himself. Mike, Tom's lover, can tell you when Tom's ready to write a new song. He'll stop talking, become introspective, shuffle through the house, and then disappear behind a closed door. Other times, physical places will inspire a song, such as a breath-

taking view. Since he didn't have a good keyboard as he formed his music career, he would often use the piano at church. He still returns to a church piano for good inspiration while writing. Emotions are primarily what he attempts to capture in his songs, so any spot that allows him to focus on his feelings is a good spot for writing.

In 2007, Tom Goss performed in over 100 shows in taverns, clubs, coffee shops and festivals. Taverns can be challenging, especially when the bar is across the room such that everybody has their back to you in order to get their drinks. Tom prefers to play at festivals, which he considers to be conduits to social awareness, where people, young and old, create an atmosphere of fun, respect and education.

There is no drawn out plan for Tom's future. He aspires to work in music full time and reach people in a positive manner. Mike should remain his partner for the rest of his life, and Tom would like to spend more time with his family, which now seem a long distance away.

If it weren't for Tom's fans, he'd be playing to the wall of an empty room. When people listen to Tom's music, he's very honored. His listeners make it possible for him to provide a resource, through song, in order to attain and strive for truth and reconciliation. To be one of his listeners, you can catch Tom Goss at Café Fresco, downtown Harrisburg, 215 N. 2nd St. 11:30 p.m. Saturday, February 16th. Tom Goss has two albums out, Naked Without, and, just released, Rise. To learn more of Tom and his music, visit [TomGossMusic.com](http://TomGossMusic.com).

- Bolton Winpenny

## STAR POEM

### THE COMMUTE OF DEATH

*"Dammit!" Franklin cursed  
whatever nicked his ear  
and turned to confront the  
too-close idiot on the subway.*

*Death could only shrug in apology –  
he never knew where to point the scythe.  
Franklin found another car.*

*Death wondered why  
they always think it makes  
a difference, and continued  
scanning the obituaries.*

*Death looked out the window  
at the next stop, luring  
Claire into another cigarette;  
the slow ones felt tedious.  
Go ahead and have  
that third doughnut, Tim.*

*Death glanced at the strobing  
somber faces around him  
knowing their mood would  
lift when he reached his stop.*

*Death was never jostled while exiting;  
everyone gave him a wide berth  
then sighed with relief.*

~Philip

### TOM GOSS PERFORMING AT



Café Fresco  
215 N. 2nd St.  
Harrisburg  
11:30 p.m. Saturday,  
February 16th.

Tom Goss  
New Album  
"RISE"  
Released  
Jan. 8, 2008



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# Living Positive

by Christopher J. Kupchik  
Executive Director, Caring Communities For AIDS

At this time of year, many people venture into gyms across the country in an effort to begin the Battle of the Bulge. For some, it's the third, fourth, fifth time or more they've enlisted to serve in this fight. Some will succeed in the battle, while many others will miserably fail.

But, the idea of embarking on a regular exercise program is a good one! This is something I tell the clients of our case management program each year. As director of Caring Communities For AIDS, an AIDS service organization in Berwick, Pennsylvania, I feel compelled to help our HIV positive clients learn all they can to improve their overall health. This includes talking about exercise and encouraging them to actually do it.

According to the American Council on Exercise (ACE), people with HIV may experience benefits from exercise including, improved strength and stamina. Additionally, regular exercise may promote an improved quality of life for those living with HIV. ACE also says that exercise may offer improved psychological benefits to those with HIV. Because HIV damages the body's ability to fight off infections and maintain overall health, it's no secret that regular exercise can provide an extra edge to positive individuals that just may help them feel better and stay healthier.

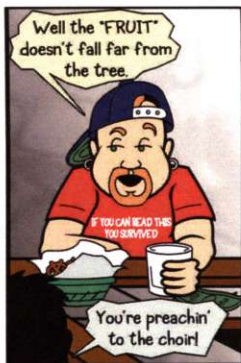
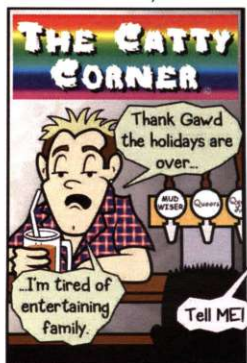
So, what do you do if you're HIV positive and want to engage in an exercise program? Your first order of business is to speak to your doctor to make sure that an exercise program is right for you. This step is crucial for everyone in general, but it's especially important for those with HIV because illnesses and complications associated with this disease may make it more challenging if not impossible for an HIV positive person to exercise.

Once your doctor clears you to embark on an exercise program, you need to figure out what type of exercise is right for you. The possibilities are seemingly endless. You can improve your overall physical condition by joining a local gym, for example. Gyms offer a wide variety of weights and cardio exercise equipment. More importantly, they offer expert advice from certified trainers. The gym in my neighborhood touts that you're 77% more likely to succeed on your exercise program if you use a personal trainer, but this option is not appealing to everyone. Gyms can be intimidating and scare people off.

You really don't have to join a gym to enjoy the benefits of exercise. According to Body Positive, following a regular walking program, or taking actions as simple as using the stairs instead of the elevator can make a big difference. If you enjoy sports, then why not engage in a pick-up game of basketball or football? Those are great ways to incorporate fun into your exercise program. Many people enjoy dancing, so you can get physical by enrolling in dance lessons at a local dance school, or just take to the dance floor of your local club a little more regularly. Still, you could consider yoga or tai chi, both of which are particularly helpful in relieving stress and anxiety.

It's important to note that there are different types of exercise. Strength training is considered to be anaerobic, and can be utilized to build muscle, according to ACE. Walking, jogging, jumping rope, etc., are considered aerobic activities, and improve your heart while shedding fat. Regular stretching activities should be used to improve your flexibility. The American Council on Exercise strongly recommends that any program incorporate all three types of exercise to reap the most benefit. However, some people may tend to try one type of exercise at first and then add other kinds of exercises into their routine at a later time. To find the routine that's best for you, talk to an exercise specialist or physician.

There are all sorts of ways to become physically active. Finding the activity you like to do and sticking to it is the key. Once you do, you'll be on your way to burning more fat, toning your muscles and improving your heart and other organs. This will undoubtedly help you to feel great and better manage your HIV.



**JOE CARR**  
**FREELANCE ARTIST**

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## *Ikarus' Ruffled Feathers*

Welcome to What Ruffles My Feathers, where, if common sense were a weapon, most people would be unarmed.

With the holidays gone, I figured this would be a good time to bring up family issues. I love my family. Well, most of them, anyway. If you're lucky enough to have a family who supports you and your being an out "mo", great. If they like your partner, hey, even better.

Why is it then, that if they support you, every time there's a family function, they have to give you the old what's allowed speech? Like you're going to make out and have sex on the couch in front of Grandpa. Yet they don't have that chat with the straight side of the

family. "Adam and Steve are coming for the holidays. Now, you know what you can't do." Apparently there are two sets of rules for the "mos" and the "non-mos". I say holidays are for the whole family. The next time you get "the chat" just ask Mom "Did you tell the heteros that I don't want to see any making out or anything that makes me uncomfortable?" and, "Oh mom, by the way, I think I know by now, no porn in front of Pap."

Well kiddies, I hope your holidays were bright and fun. Remember, they are only heteros, and we need to love them and pray they learn to understand we are no different than they are. So, teach and love them.

— Ikarus  
(formerly known as Buffy Buffington)

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# FRIDAYS THE KINSEY SICKS

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Open Mic Nights will feature live entertainment, talented artists, door prizes, raffle items and of course, great coffee!

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Coordinated in partnership with area GSA's (Gay/Straight Alliances) of local colleges and universities. "Friday's" are open to the public, and donations are always appreciated.

For More Information: 717-920-9534  
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## Saturday, February 16th

VIP\* Tickets: \$100 per ticket

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## Sunday, February 17th

Limited Seating!! Call now!

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Private Movie  
 Viewing of:

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*Priscilla*  
 QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Pre-scilla Social: 3:00 / Showing Time: 4:15 PM

Pre-scilla & Movie: \$15.00

Allen Theater, 36 East Main Street.

Route 422, Annville, PA 17003

100% proceeds directly fund the mission of Common Roads.

[www.commonroads.org](http://www.commonroads.org)

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